GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1227
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Issue of Food Security at WTO Meet
Vanaroja Smt. R.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Trade Organisations (WTO) draft declaration for ministerial meeting in Nairobi has made no mention of finding a permanent solution to India"s concerns on food security but proposed to address all aspects of agricultural reforms as a matter of priority;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the first draft for the meeting had taken note of the failure to reach a pact on most issues that were part of Doha work programme; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b) The Nairobi Ministerial Declaration is the outcome of negotiations among the members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) during which India sought to ensure that its interests and concerns were addressed. The final Declaration was adopted by consensus. The Declaration recognises earlier decisions taken in the WTO on public stockholding for food security purposes in paragraph 12 and lists the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on the subject in part II of the Declaration, while referring to progress made on the Doha Development Agenda. Besides the Declaration, a Ministerial Decision on the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes was adopted in the Nairobi Ministerial Conference which reaffirms earlier decisions on the issue adopted at the Bali Ministerial Conference and subsequently by the General Council on 27 November 2014 which when read together, mandate a permanent solution by the 11th Ministerial Conference of the WTO.
(c) &(d) The Nairobi Ministerial Declaration acknowledges the differences of opinion among WTO members on reaffirmation of the Doha Development Agenda. However, paragraph 31 of the said Declaration states that there is a strong commitment of all members to advance negotiations on the remaining Doha issues.
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